

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) In a computerized system that includes one or more computer-executable program components, including one or more computer-executable requesting components configured to execute one or more computer-executable target components in the computerized system, the target component comprising one of a non-overwritable library component and an overwritable platform component, a method of automatically providing a computer-executable requesting component with access to an automatically determined version of a computer-executable target component upon request, comprising the acts of:

receiving one or more requests from one or more requesting components for access by the one or more requesting components of one or more target components, wherein each request includes an indication of the lowest possible version of the target component that the requesting component can accept;

upon receiving the one or more requests, identifying a versioning policy for each of the requested target components;

automatically determining from the identified versioning policy that the requested target component is a platform component or a library component; and

automatically providing the one or more requesting components with access to an appropriate version of the one or more target components on a differential basis from one target component to the next, wherein:

if the requested target component is a platform component, the requesting component is automatically provided only the most recent servicing of the target component that is at least as recent as the lowest possible version of the target component specified by the requesting component; and

if the requested target component is a library component, the requesting component is provided only a version of the target component that is specified by the requesting component.

2. (Cancelled)
3. (Cancelled)

4. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the target component is a platform component, the method further comprising an act of identifying a more recent version of the target component in response to a request for an earlier version of the target even though the more recent version and the earlier version are both accessible to the computerized system comprises identifying a more recent version of a platform component even though an earlier version of the platform component remained on the system when the more recent version was received at the computerized system.

5. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 1, further comprising an act of identifying the versioning policy of the specified lowest possible version of the target component when the specified lowest possible version of the target component is added to the computerized system.

6. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 1, further comprising an act of storing, in the requesting component, version information that identifies the specified lowest possible version of the target component in the requesting component when the requesting component is one or more of compiled, configured, installed, and run on the computerized system.

7. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 1, further comprising:
identifying one or more requesting components that are able to access a prior version of the target component;
identifying that none of the one or more requesting components are configured to request the prior version of the target component; and
automatically deleting the prior version of the target component.
8. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the request further includes a request for a specific version of the target component, wherein the requested specific version is different from the lowest possible version of the target component .
9. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 8, wherein the automatically determined appropriate version of the target component is different from the requested specific version of the target component that was requested.
10. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 1, further comprising receiving a plurality of new versions of the target component, wherein each of the new versions of the target component is associated with a different versioning policy.
11. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 9, further comprising determining the appropriate version of the target component from among the specified lowest possible version of the target component and each of the plurality of new versions of the target component when the plurality of new versions of the target component.
12. (Original) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the versioning policy is inserted into computer-executable instructions in the target component prior to one of installing, configuring, and executing the target component on the computerized system.

13. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the versioning policy is further identified in a plurality of versions of the target component on the computerized system.

14. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 12, wherein each versioning policy in each version of the target component identifies a specific version of the requesting component configured to access that target component.

15. (Original) The method as recited in claim 1, further comprising identifying a component scope that is associated with the target component.

16. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 14, wherein the appropriate version of the target component is further automatically determined based on the identified component scope associated with the target component in addition to a determination of the lowest possible version that can be accepted.

17. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 15, wherein the identified component scope specifies that access to the specified version of the target component is provided differently from the lowest possible version of the target component in one of a machine level, a process level, or a sub-process level.

18. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 1, further comprising identifying a servicing value associated with the requested target component.

19. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 18, wherein identifying an appropriate version of the target component comprises identifying an updated servicing of a target component.

20. (Currently Amended) In a computerized system that includes one or more computer-executable program components, including one or more computer-executable requesting components that can request to access one or more computer-executable target components in the computerized system, the target component comprising one of a non-overwritable library component and an overwritable platform component, a method of automatically providing a computer-executable requesting component with access to an automatically determined version of a computer-executable target component, comprising:

- receiving one or more requests from one or more requesting components for access by the one or more requesting components of one or more target components, wherein each request includes an indication of the lowest possible version of the target component that the requesting component can accept;

- a step for, upon receiving the request from the requesting component, automatically determining an appropriate version of the requested target component based on a versioning policy corresponding to the requested target component, and automatically allowing access to the appropriate version of the requested target component on a differential basis based on whether the requested target component is a platform component or a library component, such that the requesting component accesses the appropriate target component as it has been configured to do so, and such that the requesting component does not fail when requesting access to a component that has been upgraded.

21. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 20, wherein the step for allowing access to an appropriate version of the requested target component comprises the corresponding acts of:

upon receiving the one or more requests, identifying a versioning policy for each of the requested target components;

automatically determining from the identified versioning policy that the requested target component is a platform component or a library component; and

automatically providing the one or more requesting components with access to an appropriate version of the one or more target components on a differential basis from one target component to the next, wherein:

if the requested target component is a platform component, the requesting component is automatically provided only the most recent servicing of the target component that is at least as recent as the lowest possible version of the target component specified by the requesting component; and

if the requested target component is a library component, the requesting component is provided only a version of the target component that is specified by the requesting component.

22. (Currently Amended) In a computerized system that includes one or more program components, including one or more requesting components that can request to access one or more target components in the computerized system, the target component comprising one of a non-overwritable library component and an overwritable platform component, a method of automatically managing access of one or more versions of computer-executable target components such that a computer-executable requesting component that accesses the computer-executable target component continues to operate effectively after the target component has been upgraded with newer versions thereof, comprising the acts of:

identifying that one or more requesting components are configured to execute a version of one or more computer-executable target components;

automatically identifying a versioning policy for each of the one or more target components;

automatically determining for each of the one or more target components whether the target component is a platform component or a library component; and

for each platform component automatically determining based on the corresponding versioning policy for each platform component to remove any of the available versions of the platform component that are earlier than the version for which any of the one or more requesting components are configured; and

for each library component, determining based on the corresponding versioning policy to maintain all new versions of the target component, all the existing versions of the target component, and all of the previously installed version of the target components in the system at the same time.

23. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 22, wherein each target component includes a versioning value and a servicing value, the method further comprising:

receiving an updated servicing of the existing version of one of the target components over a network from a network service provider; and

automatically overwriting the target component, wherein the existing version of the target component reflects the versioning value and a new servicing value.

24. (Cancelled)
25. (Cancelled)

26. (Currently Amended) In a computerized system including one or more requesting components that are configured to access one or more target components in the computerized system, the target component comprising one of a non-overwritable library component and an overwritable platform component, a computer program storage product having computer-executable instructions stored thereon that, when executed, cause one or more processors in the computerized system to execute a method of automatically providing a computer-executable requesting component with access to an automatically determined version of a computer-executable target component upon request, comprising the acts of:

- receiving one or more requests from one or more requesting components for access by the one or more requesting components of one or more target components, wherein each request includes an indication of the lowest possible version of the target component that the requesting component can accept;

- upon receiving the one or more requests, identifying a versioning policy for each of the requested target components;

- automatically determining from the identified versioning policy that the requested target component is a platform component or a library component; and

- automatically providing the one or more requesting components with access to an appropriate version of the one or more target components on a differential basis for each target component, wherein:

- if the requested target component is a platform component, the requesting component is automatically provided only the most recent servicing of the target component that is at least as recent as the lowest possible version of the target component specified by the requesting component; and

- if the requested target component is a library component, the requesting component is provided only a version of the target component that is specified by the requesting component.

27. (Currently Amended) In a computerized system including one or more requesting components that are configured to access one or more target components in the computerized system, the target component comprising one of a non-overwritable library component and an overwritable platform component, a computer program storage product having computer-executable instructions stored thereon that, when executed, cause one or more processors in the computerized system to execute a method of automatically managing access of one or more versions of computer-executable target components such that a computer-executable requesting component that accesses the computer-executable target component continues to operate effectively after the target component has been upgraded with newer versions thereof, comprising the acts of:

identifying that one or more requesting components are configured to execute a version of one or more computer-executable target components;

automatically identifying a versioning policy for each of the one or more target components;

automatically determining for each of the one or more target components whether the target component is a platform component or a library component; and

for each platform component automatically determining based on the corresponding versioning policy for each platform component to remove any of the available versions of the platform component that are earlier than the version for which any of the one or more requesting components are configured; and

for each library component, determining based on the corresponding versioning policy to maintain all new versions of the target component, all the existing versions of the target component, and all of the previously installed version of the target components in the system at the same time.